

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /075 W
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R 281350Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6551

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 1291

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, VN, VS, IN

SUBJECT: REPORTED ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A PRG OFFICE IN INDIA

REF: A. SAIGON 981 B. NEW DELHI 0655 C. SAIGON 1041

1. CONSUL GENERAL VU VAN HIEU OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM PROVIDED US A REPORT JANUARY 28 ON HIS CALL EARLIER IN THE DAY ON DIRECTOR N.B. MENON OF THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS EAST ASIA DIVISION WITH REGARD TO THE JANUARY 24 LIBERATION RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT OF A PRG-GOI AGREEMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRG "GENERAL DELEGATION" IN INDIA. ACCORDING TO THE CONSUL GENERAL, MENON TOLD HIM THAT THE GOI HAD INFORMED THE PRG REPRESENTATIVE IN HANOI "LAST WEEK" THAT INDIA WAS NOW READY TO ACCEPT A "PRG PRESENCE" IN DELHI. MENON REPORTEDLY DECLINED TO ELABORATE BUT INDICATED TO THE CONSUL GENERAL THAT THE PRESENCE WOULD BE NEITHER CONSULAR NOR DIPLOMATIC IN NATURE, AND WOULD NOT ENTAIL DEPLOMATIC RECOGNITION. (POPPEN'S STATEMENT
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REPORTED IN PARA 2 REFTEL C CLOSELY FOLLOWS MENON'S IN

THIS RESPECT.) ACCORDING TO THE CONSUL GENERAL'S ACCOUNT, MENON FURTHER SAID THAT DETAILS OF THE ARRANGEMENT REMAINED TO BE WORKED OUT, AND THAT THE PRG ANNOUNCEMENT WAS "UNILATERAL", NOT AT ALL INVOLVING THE GOI. THE CONSUL GENERAL TOLD US THAT HE ASSUMED ON THE BASIS OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH MONON THAT THE GOI HAD INFORMED THE PRG REPRESENTATIVE OF ITS READINESS TO ACCEPT A PRG PRESENCE ON JANUARY 22, AND THAT THE PRG QUICKLY SEIZED UPON THE INDIAN ACTION AS CONSTITUTING AN "AGREEMENT" WHICH IT COULD USEFULLY PUBLICIZE.

2. PRIOR TO OUR DISCUSSION WITH CONSUL GENERAL HIEU, AN EMBASSY OFFICER CONTACTED MENON'S DEPUTY JANUARY 28 WITH REGARD BOTH TO THE LIBERATION RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT AND THE REACTION OF "INFORMED SOURCES" HERE (AS REPORTED IN THE INDIAN PRESS JANUARY 26) THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS "A LITTLE PREMATURE." THE DEPUTY SECRETARY (WHO ALSO PROVIDED THE INFORMATION IN PARAGRAPHS 3-4 OF REFTEL B) MADE NO MENTION OF THE GOI'S ACTION IN HANOI BUT COMMENTED THAT THE PRG ANNOUNCEMENT WAS INACCURATE IN THAT NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON JANUARY 22 AND NO DATE FOR SUCH AN AGREEMENT COULD YET BE DETERMINED. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE PRG ANNOUNCEMENT HAD BEEN CHARACTERIZED IN NEW DELHI'S PRESS AS "A LITTLE PREMATURE" BECAUSE THE "FINAL ARRANGEMENTS HAVE YET TO BE FINALIZED." AS TO WHEN AGREEMENT WOULD BE REACHED AND A RESULTANT ANNOUNCEMENT MADE, THE INDIAN OFFICIAL INITIALLY RESPONDED THAT IT WAS "ANYBODY'S GUESS." WHEN PRESSED ON THE LATTER, HOWEVER, HE ELABORATED THAT THE MATTER OF TIMING WAS DIFFICULT SINCE THE TALKS HAD BEEN GOING ON ALREADY "FOR MONTHS," AND THE GOI HAD NO "FIXED TIMETABLE." CONSEQUENTLY THERE IS "NO PRESSURE ON US." IN CONCLUDING THE CONVERSATION THE EMBASSY OFFICER ASKED FOR THE OFFICIAL'S BEST ESTIMATE AS TO THE TIMING OF A FINAL PRG-GOI AGREEMENT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRG OFFICE HERE. THE INDIAN OFFICIAL OFFERED A PERSONAL "GUESS THAT IT WOULD TAKE A FEW WEEKS."

3. COMMENT: BOTH MENON AND HIS DEPUTY ARE FULLY AWARE OF OUR OWN VIEWS ON THE QUESTION OF A PRG PRESENCE HERE
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AND GAVE NO INDICATION DURING THEIR RESPECTIVE CONVERSATIONS THAT THE GOI WAS PREPARED TO DELY A FINAL AGREEMENT IN DEFERENCE TO EITHER OUR OR THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE REPRESENTATIONS IN RECENT WEEKS. FOR SAIGON'S INFORMATION, CONSUL GENERAL HIEU WAS QUITE CONCERNED LEST THIS EMBASSY'S REPORT OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH MENON REACH HIS GOVERNMENT BEFORE HE MANAGED TO DESPATCH HIS OWN TELEGRAM, WHICH HE EXPECTED TO DO BY

MIDNIGHT JANUARY 28 DELHI TIME. THE EMBASSY WILL
ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY THE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS IN
PARAGRAPH 2 OF REFTEL A AS SOON AS MORE INFORMATION
BECOMES AVAILABLE. WITH REGARD TO PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE
SAME REFTEL, THE NAMES OF THE PRG DELEGATION MEMBERS
ATTENDING THE TENTH CPI CONGRESS WHICH BEGAN JANUARY 27
HAVE NOT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE YET.
WE WILL TRY TO OBTAIN THIS INFORMATION.
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, RECOGNITION, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE01291
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750032-0723
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750114/aaaaammm.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 SAIGON 981, 75 NEW DELHI 0655, 75 SAIGON 1041
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PRG OFFICE IN INDIA
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, VN, VS, IN
To: SAIGON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006